GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY

Testimony Presented to the

House Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity
"The Promise of Registered Traveler"

By

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THE GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY'S TESTIMONY
PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION,
AND CYBERSECURITY
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Chairman Lungren and distinguished members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastucture Protection, and Cybersecurity:

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority ("the Authority") greatly appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on "The Promise of Registered Traveler." The Authority remains a steadfast partner in ensuring the highest standards of public safety and security of our homeland and deeply appreciates the leadership and efforts put forth by you and your Subcommittee to advance this mission.

The Authority respectfully appreciates your Subcommittee's interest and support of the Registered Traveler Program.

I.   Registered Traveler Private Sector Program Background

Orlando International Airport, operated by the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, is the 4th largest origin and destination airport in the United States with a commitment to excellence in customer service as Florida's busiest airport with over 31.1 million passengers in 2004. Orlando was recently recognized by J.D. Powers and Associates as the number one airport for customer service in North America and number two in the world behind Hong Kong. We are honored to have been approached by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to initiate a pilot program exploring the feasibility of a private sector registered traveler concept.

This program will provide convenient, efficient, and speedy access to the security screening process for registered travelers. It is distinguished from TSA's Registered Traveler pilot programs, currently in place at five airports across the country, in that it divides responsibility for implementation between the airport and TSA. Under the program, TSA has responsibility for standards, security, and screening oversight for all aspects of the program, including the completion of security threat assessments and control of checkpoint operations. The airport's responsibilities incorporate the concept of the private sector partner to design, construct, market, operate and maintain the program, consistent with TSA guidelines. The program is funded and sustained by the private sector users. The benefit of the program, as capacity returns to the airways, is improved throughput at the checkpoint, for passengers a predictable travel time schedule, and allowing TSA to focus resources.

In February 2005, the Authority executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the TSA. The Authority initiated a request for proposal process to select a Service Provider partner. The Authority Board approved the selection of the Verified Identity Pass, Inc./Lockheed Martin Team on June 1st, 2005. We anticipate beginning enrollments for Registered Traveler program participants by the end of June with actual operations beginning mid July. The pilot program is to be operated at Orlando International for a period of six to twelve months. It is the intent to

seek TSA approval to extend the pilot project into a permanent nationwide program with ability to use at many of our airports.

II . The Program at Orlando International Airport

The design of the Registered Traveler Program embodies three principles: 1. Enhance security; 2. Encourage commerce, and 3. Protect the privacy of passengers information. The components of the program are security assessment, enhanced technology using biometric identifiers, faster throughput at the checkpoint and ultimately, customer satisfaction.

A key feature of the Orlando Registered Traveler Program is that it will be open to all travelers on all air carriers departing Orlando International Airport. A check-in kiosk will be located at our security checkpoints for Registered Travelers to present their card for biometric verification and expedited access to security screening. The card will be a "smart" card with an embedded computer chip allowing the storage of information. In order to enroll, an applicant submits two forms of U.S. government issued identification, provides personal and biometric information in the form of fingerprints and iris scans and consents to a government security threat assessment. Successful applicants will be issued their official enrollment card by mail. A unique feature of using biometric identifiers in this program is that the card can only be used by the Registered Traveler as fingerprints and iris' are unique to each individual.

III. Challenges of the Private Sector Registered Traveler Program

The key elements to success of the Registered Traveler Program are focused on privacy concerns and demonstration of real benefits. Our service provider found in initial surveys that the number one concern of passengers, as it related to Registered Traveler, is privacy. We have taken an aggressive approach in partnership with our service provider to emphasize the protection of information.

The aviation community is very supportive of the Registered Traveler Program, if real benefits can be demonstrated. These real benefits include use at multiple airports, dedicated lines for security screening, certain exemptions for additional security screening, such as allowing coats and shoes to remain on and laptops to stay in carry-on luggage. In addition, this program could be a venue to accelerate the operational testing of new technologies at Registered Travelers lanes, adding real benefits while improving security processes. By expediting the passenger screening process for those enrolled in the program, it should help to ease possible congestion at the security checkpoint for all travelers. We respectfully request your support and look forward to exploring and integrating these concepts with TSA at Orlando International Airport.

IV. Closing

Orlando International Airport remains steadfast in its commitment and purpose to assist our nation in its mission to protect our borders and homeland while enabling safe, efficient and timely movement of passengers and commerce. The Registered Traveler Program reinforces Orlando International Airport's commitment to excellence in customer service.

Travel is one of our most important freedoms. The ability for all citizens to travel safely and efficiently is all of our responsibility. The Registered Traveler Program facilitates that right through the enhancement of security, the encouragement of commerce and the protection of passengers privacy.

I, as a representative of the Authority, want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to present this testimony to your Subcommittee. We look forward to working with you in building the Registered Traveler Program to benefit the traveling public. If the Committee requires any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the following:

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